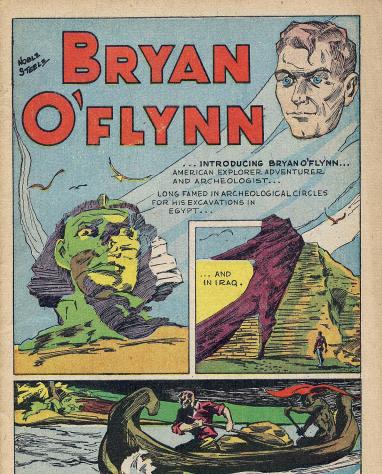






Crown Comics, Spring Issue, Vol. 1, No. 9. Published quarterly at 163 Prott Street, Meriden, Conn. Editorial office Home Guide Publications, 1775 Broadway, New York 19, New York. Entered as second class matter March 15, 1945 at the post office at Meriden, Conn. under the Act March 3, 1879. Single copies 10c. Yearly subscriptions 75c. Printed in U.S.A. Copyright 1947 by Home Guide Publications.



... BRYAN IS ALSO NOTED AS AN INTREPID BIG GAME HUNTER. AND EXPLORER.















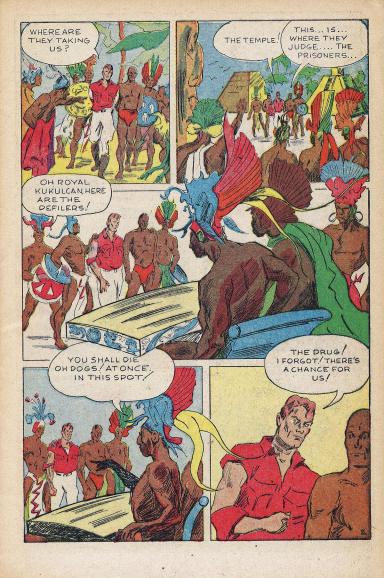




















"HE'S YELLOW FOX!
I'VE SEEN HIM IN THE
SETTLEMENT WITH THE
RENEGADES - DRINKING
AND SPENDING MONEY.
I KNOW NOW WHO
TO LOOK FOR!!







LOOKING FOR YELLOW FOX, BART GOES TO THE SETTLEMENT --

YELLOW FLOX ? I HAVENIT THANK YE, MEN. I'LL FIND HIM, BART - NOR SOME WAY!

PELLOW FOX! YOUNG
BART STEWART IS LOOKIN!
FOR YE. HE'S WILD AND
A FIGHTER -- YE'D BEST
ANOID HIM!

MMM -- I MUST LEAVE DISTRICT ANYWAY--

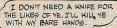
HAVE YE FOUND YELLOW FOX YET, MASTER BART? NAY - AND IT LOOKS HOPELESS, I'D BEST BE GETTING ANGEL FOFF FOR PHILADELPHIA AN UNCLE, ADAN WEST HAS A SHIPPING COMPANY THERE, AND WILL GIVE ME WORK.













WHILE THEY'RE YOUR FIGHTING I CAN KNIFE WONT SHOOT BART AND HELP YE, KEEP HIS ENGUGH BLACKGUARP, INHERITANCE!



YELLOW FOX THROWS HIS KNIFE BUT BART DUCKS AND THE KNIFE HITS HIS UNCLE INSTEAD!

















THEN THE STEWARTS ARE AVENGED!







HE'S SUSPICIOUS

FOLLOW
BART STEWART
IN ANOTHER EXITING BUCKSKIN
STORY IN THE
NEXT ISSUE OF
CROWN COMICS

















SOME sixty-odd years ago the vessel "Queen Helen" sailed from Boston en route to a port in the Dutch East Indies. From that day to this not a trace has been found of ship or crew. One of the many unexplained mysteries of the sea.

Captain Mitchell of the "Queen Helen" was a man possessed of a wild, uncontrollable temper. Perhaps no captain on the sea was so thoroughly hated and so completely feared by the crew of his ship. By the crews of all ships, for that matter. His First Mate, John Lewis, was an exact opposite. Men looked upon him as an elder brother, to whom they could take their troubles. Lewis could be depended upon to come to their defense. Even against the terrible Captain Mitchell.

As for the Second Mate—the less said the better. It was whispered that he had been an inmate of an asylum for the criminally insane.

His name was Stanley Mears.

The "Queen Helen" left Boston on a hot July evening. Captain and mates included, the crew numbered thirty. These men were among the wildest and toughest on the world's far distant water-fronts.

IGHT days out and the seas were as calm and as still as a sheet of glass. Captain Mitchell was in his cabin, making an entry in the ship's log. There came a knock on his door.

"Come in."

His voice boomed as harsh as a cannon. The door opened and Second Mate Stanley Mears entered. He carried his cap in his hand, as all men did who entered the Captain's cabin.

"A few minutes of your time, Captain?" he

asked meekly.

Mitchell did not look up from his desk. "Sit down, Mr. Mears," he ordered. "But make it short."

The Second Mate selected a chair to the right of the Captain's desk.

"I'll come to the point," he said. "Like you, Captain, I'm a very direct man."

Mitchell continued to wells. Are you, Ma Mears?" he remarked.

"Yes," said Mears, "and I feel it my duty to report that someone has made a most amazing discovery on board."

"What-for instance?"

Mears inched his chair closer to the desk. "Those boxes that mysteriously stayed on board while we were in Boston," he continued. "The ones labeled 'Hemp'—but which always seemed too heavy for hemp."

Mitchell stopped writing. He looked at the Mate. "Have you been prowling among things that do not concern you?" he asked. "If so-you know what the penalty is aboard this ship."

"No-no, Captain."

Mears was quick to come to his own defense. He wanted no part of the Captain's special "penalty."

"I was inspecting the hold," he said, "just before we sailed. Someone ripped out a corner of one of those boxes and discovered its real contents."

"And what are the real contents?" cakes

"Ivory," was the answes.

"Ivory, Mr. Mears?"

"Contraband ivory," answered the Mata-"With my own eyes I saw it. And so did combody else."

THE Captain turned in his chair slowly. However, seemed to burn right into the face of his Second Mate. For several seconds neither man spoke. Finally Mitchell picked his pipe up from his desk and started to load it with to-bacco. Mears watched him closely. He expected an outburst any minute. But the outburst did not come. The Captain lighted his pipe and turned back to face the man everyone was sure was partly mad.

"Mr. Mears," he said slowly, "what you have seen could very well cost you your life. Before this only I knew what was in those boxes. Now I share this secret with you and one other person. This person is unknown, you say?"

Mears nodded. "It could have happened any time during the two weeks we were in port," he said. "Somebody used a hatchet on the corner of one of those boxes. I'm sure it's one of the crew. There are twenty-eight men to choose from."

Mitchell's face was red with anger. He puffed on his pipe furiously.

"Order the men on deck," he roared, "and we'll see who prowls this ship by night."

Mears grinned and quickly left to carry out

the order. Within a matter of minutes the crew was assembled on the deck. Captain Mitchell faced them.

"During the time we were in port," he announced, "someone among you went in the hold against my orders. This person chopped a hole in the corner of one of the boxes labeled 'Hemp.' I'm going to find him if I have to beat the brains out of every mother's son of you."

IS BLAZING eyes went from one face to another. They finally rested on a seaman named Flynn. The Captain motioned him forward.

"Is that sweat on your face from the sun, Flynn," he asked, "or a guilty conscience?"

"I don't know what you mean, Captain," the

"Oh, don't you?"

Mitchell's huge fist crashed against Flynn's mouth. Spitting blood and teeth, the dazed seaman pitched onto the deck. First Mate Lewis started to help him to his feet.

"Let him be, Mr. Lewis," Mitchell ordered. Lewis looked at his captain. His face was white and drawn, as though the blood had left it. He stepped a few paces in front of the crew. "Captain," he said, "the man you want may not even be aboard. When we were in Boston many strangers prowled along the decks. Maybe some of them got below."

"When I want your opinion, I'll ask for it," Mitchell bellowed. "Only a crew member would have any reason to prowl around the hold of this ship. And I want to know who that man is."

Again his piercing eyes searched the faces of his crew.

"Pierson, come up here."

A husky seaman ambled forward. He looked at Mitchell and his eyes did not waver. This infuriated the Captain even more. He enjoyed watching his men tremble before him. But Pierson was a new member, making his first voyage on the "Queen Helen." One look at him and you knew the man feared nothing, not even the brutal Captain Mitchell.

"The answer is no, sir," he said politely. "I did not go into the hold while we were docked."

Mitchell dashed his pipe to the deck.
"Speak when you're spoken to," he roared.
"Discipline is the password on this ship. And

"Discipline is the password on this ship. And here's the way I enforce it."

A GAIN that iron fist lashed out. It smashed against Pierson's jaw. He crashed to the deck, but, to every man's amazement, he

rolled over once and came up on one knee. Blood was trickling from the side of his mouth.

"Mitchell," he growled, "this is your last trip." With that he rushed at the Captain. Mitchell swung but missed. He had been taken completely by surprise. Pierson hammered a blow to Mitchell's jaw that spun him on his heels. At this point Second Mate Mears tried to come to his Captain's assistance. He drew a dirk from his sleeve and rushed at Pierson. The seaman ducked, picked Mears up as he would a child and flung him over the rail into the sea. A shot crashed out and Pierson fell to the deck. Mitchell had recovered his balance and brought his revolver into play. This touched off a general, though unplanned, mutiny. First Mate Lewis tried his best to prevent any more bloodshed. It was useless. The pent-up hatred of these men, who were treated no better than wild beasts. burst like the waters of a great dam. They were like men gone mad. They fought among themselves, and in the confusion Captain Mitchell managed to battle his way below. He entered his cabin and shut the door behind him. As he was entering something in the ship's log, Mate Lewis burst into the cabin. His face was torn and bleeding. Otherwise he appeared unharmed.

"Get out of here," roared Mitchell, "and try to get them under control."

"Too late," Lewis replied. "There won't be a man alive soon, and your stinking ship is on fire."

"WHAT?"

Lewis laughed. "Yes," he said, "we'll burn right to the water's edge."

ITCHELL tried to rush from the cabin. A mighty smash on the side of the face sent him crashing into the wall. He rushed at Lewis and they grappled like a pair of jungle cats. They tore the cabin to pieces in their wild fight, while the "Queen Helen" blazed like a torch, on her way to her grave and eternal mystery.

Mitchell and Lewis fought until both were too weak to continue. Then collapsed together, Side by side, the hated Captain and his popular First Mate were carried beneath the waters of the Great Atlantic. Not even a timber reached the surface.

All because a little boy with a hatchet discovered ivory in a box labeled "Hemp" we have this mystery of the sea, hidden beneath eternal time and the grey, green ocean waters.

THE END



... I WAG IN THE CHIEF'S OFFICE ABOUT MIDNIGHT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, WHEN THE PHONE RANG ...

A CAR WRECKED
ON THE HIGHWAY
OUT OF TOWN?
HELEN MARTIN?
HELEN MARTIN?



-- WE WENT OUT TO THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT: IT WAS QUITE A WRECK...





















THE FENCE.

AROUND HERE AND HEARD THE CRASH. HE GOT TO THE WRECK, FOUND THE JEWELS, AND WE NABBED HIM BEFORE HE COULD

2

GET AWAY --

AS THEY WERE TAKING THE WRECKEL CAR AWAY I COMBED THE TERRAIN

-- IF SHE WASNIT SPEEDING SHE COULD HAVE EASILY MADE THE TURN. SOMEONE ELSE MUST HAVE BEEN IN THE CAR WITH HER, AND SENT IT OVER THE CLIFF. WHAT'S THIS ??



- A SILVER CIGARETTE LIGHTER! UNTARNISHED! IT CAN'T HAVE BEEN LYING AROUND LONG .- MUST HAVE BEEN THROWN CLEAR OF THE CAR.



IT WAS LATE WHEN I GOT THERE. I BROKE THE NEWS OF THEIR DAUGHTERS DEATH WITH AS MUCH TACT AS



















I'VE ALREADY BEEN

TO THE MARTIN HOUSE.



I KNEW THE OWNER OF THE CASTLE CLUB, DICE MALONE, PRETTY WELL. I CALLED HIM AT THE CASTLE CLUB, WHICH IS JUST OUT-SIDE OF THE CITY LIMITS.

MR. MALONE? -- WHERE? IN HIS APARTMENT IN TOWN -- THAT'S FINE, I WON'T HAVE TO GO OUT OF THE CITY.





















SO YOU'RE USING HELEN MARTIN'S MONEY TO PAY YOUR GAMBLING DEBTS!

THE PAPERS
SAID THEY
CAUGHT A TRAMP
WITH THE LOOT!

ONLY THE JEWELS YOU COULDN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON HOT STONES. YOU WERE A FRIEND OF HELEN'S AND KNEW SHE HAD THE MONEY TO PAY OFF DICE AND WERE WITH HER IN THE CAR

LAST NIGHT.

-- YOU KNOCKED HER OUT, TOOK THE CASH AND RAN THE CAR OVER THE CLIFF. BUT YOU WERE CARLEDS ENOUGH TO LEAVE BEHIND THE LIGHTER YOU NOW HOLD IN YOUR













AS HE CONTINUES HIS
INVESTIGATION
OF MURDER and
CRIME!









YOU'LL NEVER AMOUNT TO MUCH WITH A POKY PONY LIKE YOURS!









































































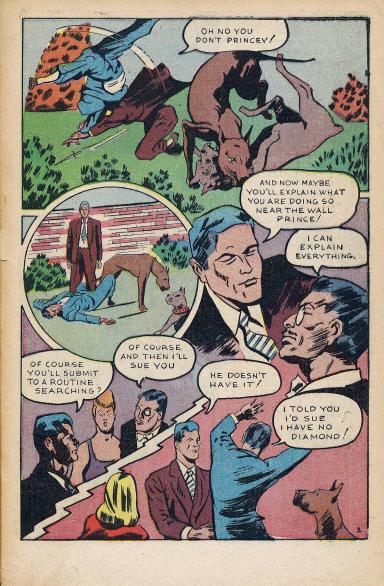














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